

# SACRED DANCE GUILD JOURNAL

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Sacred Dance Guild presents

## DANCING SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS

Festival '97

July 12 - 17, 1997, Lake Junaluska,

in the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains, a beautiful self-contained retreat center consisting of a lake surrounded by fragrant landscape trees and flowers, two historic chapels, and lots of space to dance. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring the happy news of peace and salvation...." (Isaiah 52:7) The Festival will be hosted by the Regions of North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and the Potomac Chapter of the Sacred Dance Guild. For information, contact: Denise Crowell, Festival '97 Registrar, NC, phone 704-692-6597 or Donna Hardy, Regional Director, TN, phone 423-584-4492 or Joann Flanigan, AL, phone 205-881-8171.



Lake Junaluska, North Carolina will be the site of Festival '97. Stuart Auditorium is pictured here.

## How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

by Sally Moravitz

Come to Lake Junaluska in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina for Festival '97. If you have never been to this part of the country - there are some interesting and beautiful experiences awaiting you. The closest city is Asheville where you can visit the Biltmore Estate, Thomas Wolf's boyhood home, eat barbecue while watching buck dancing and visit the North Carolina Folk Art Center north of the city on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The French Broad is the name of the river that goes through Asheville, and Wilma Dykeman has written a book by that name from which you can get an insight into the land and the people of the region.

If you plan to be in the area before or after the Festival you can hike on the Appalachian Trail, visit the Great Smokey Mountain Park and the Cherokee Indian Reservation with museums, craft shops and demonstrations as well as the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" and Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Lake Junaluska is a conference and

retreat center for the United Methodist Church. There is a Cokesbury Book Store there and if you have to fly in to Asheville - there is a van service (shades of PSR).

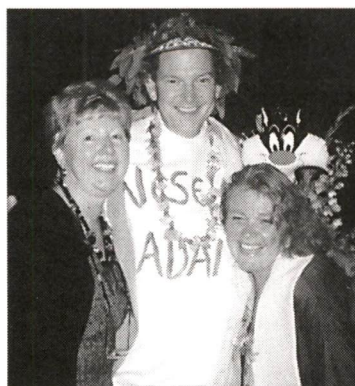
Additional information about Asheville can be obtained from their visitor center (800) 257-1300.

Hope to see you there!!

## Festival '96 Banquet, HS Lordship Restaurant on the Bay

by Toni' Intravaia

The Annual Festival Banquet and Business Meeting included special Honor to Doug Adams. The Festival group took a rest and "dressed up" for the annual gathering. In the hush of pre-preparation, Doug Adams was "roasted" by many who have known him for these twenty years. He came in full garb which included a stole and laurel wreath! He was roasted with psalms, letters, and a six-days of stoles song (a parody on the 12 Days of Christmas). And all



Ann Blessin, Doug Adams and Karen Josephson celebrate at Festival '96.

donned a variety of stoles, including some very creative ones. The stole has become Doug's identity and a stole is given to the graduates of PSR. (Doug's wife, Margo, makes all the stoles!) And at a given time Carla DeSola passed the red hat as "money" was thrown, passed and given to Doug since he is known to have been the spearhead of endowments.

What a wonderful tribute to a man who has given everything to the Sacred Dance!

# Celebrate Sacred Dance with Mary Jane Wolbers Day

by Kay Troxell

Mary Jane Wolbers was honored by the Constitution Chapter and the National Guild at a special "Day" for her, June 1, at Christ Episcopal Church, Stroudsburg, PA. Active in sacred dance since the 1930's, Mary Jane was one of the founding members of the Guild, has served two terms as its President and has continued to be active many years on its Executive Board. She is currently By-laws Chair, Parliamentarian, and a member of the Advisory Board.

In recognition of her leadership, the National Executive Board elected her an Honorary Member of the Guild and she was presented with a proclamation to that effect. Ruth Ann Rude, past President of the Constitution Chapter, presented Mary Jane with a framed memento of "Celebrate Sacred Dance with Mary Jane Wolbers Day" and an inscribed silver pendant of a modern dancer holding a cross aloft in her hand.

Mary Jane is Professor Emerita of the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance at East Stroudsburg University. As a liturgical dancer, teacher and choreographer, she has combined her expertise as a leader and performing artist with her personal conviction of the power of dance as a medium of religious expression. She is a frequent presenter at local, regional, national and international dance conferences and is a passionate representative of the Guild on every occasion.

The "Day" began with Mary Jane, in Hawaiian dress wearing a lei, sharing pictures, memories, and dances from the Festival in Hawaii, '95. Following lunch, there was an archival TV film from the '60's of "The Liturgy of Worship Interpreted in Sacred Dance" choreographed and directed by Mary Jane and danced by the East Stroudsburg Sacred Dance Choir at Salem United Church of Christ, Harrisburg, PA. A videotape was shown of Mary Jane's November '95 interview with Avis Ann Parke on Boston television.

The "Celebration" program at 2:00, was attended by Mary Jane's community friends and family, chapter members, SDG friends, and Matteo, a fellow SDG Honorary Member. In addition to the presentations, there were dances by her daughter, Vivian Nicholl, her granddaughters Brittany and Cara Nicholl, and a unique "Dona Nobis Pacem" choreographed by Mary Jane and danced by the three generations: grandmother, daughter and granddaughters.

Memories of "How Mary Jane has Touched Our Lives" were offered by Alice Elle Rader, Kay Troxell, and Anita Bondi. A poem written by Barrie Gibby was read. A sacred dance choir, directed by Anita Bondi, led the entrance procession in the Church chancel. Following

Mary Jane Wolbers and Matteo celebrate the day in Stroudsburg, PA.



Mary Jane's response and the Benediction by Chapter President Dana Schlegel, everyone enjoyed a Tea.

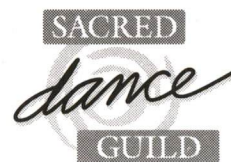
## Festival '96

by Karen Josephson

*We danced in the morning whether fog or sun  
We danced in the evening when the moon and stars were bright  
We went into S.F. and we danced all over town  
At Berkeley's PSR it happened just right.*

Perhaps this is not the best rhyme you have ever heard, but it certainly sums up the Sacred Dance Guild Festival '96, "Dance As A Journey Through Life." From 6:30 in the morning until 10:00 at night there were opportunities to view or participate in the fullness that dance can offer in a life. The faculty and week were rich in so many ways. There were North African, Celtic, Hispanic, and South Pacific dance opportunities. Special considerations of dancing with children, and the physically and emotionally challenged were included, as well as the Horton technique and improvisational choreography. We danced with biblical characters and for healing. We danced our prayers and struggles and laughter, and celebrated our bodies which dance. And we thought about how all of this could happen in our own congregations, and into the next century.

As director, I was thrilled to have such a diverse and gifted faculty. Honoring Doug Adams for all his work over the years to promote and encourage Sacred Dance was a privilege as we roasted him at the banquet. A highlight for many was going into San Francisco to ride (read dance for some) the Cable Cars on the way to dance the labyrinths at Grace Cathedral, with a Taize style dance service at Old St. Mary's Cathedral ending the day. The frosting of the week was the closing worship at Berkeley's marina, with the sun dancing on the Bay waters, and the Golden Gate Bridge providing the backdrop. It was a golden week!! Special kudos and thanks to Barbara Tener and Joann Flanigan, who lightened the load of this director immeasurably.



### Executive Board

President: Ann Blessin  
Vice-President: Joann Flanigan  
Recording Secretary: Regina Bowman  
Corresponding Secretary: Annie Zahradnik  
Treasurer: Carolyn Lutito  
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1993-1996 Pam Bittner Gwozdz, Dana R. Schlegel, Mary Jane Wolbers  
1994-1997 Stephanie LeBlanc Gesell, Barrie Gibby, Barbara Tener  
1995-1998 Denise Dovell, Stella Matsuda, Joicele Nordwall

The JOURNAL is the official publication of the Sacred Dance Guild, a non-profit international corporation, founded in 1958, and providing members with information and opportunities for enriching their faith through movement and dance.

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**Policy Statement.** The Sacred Dance Guild recommends and encourages its members to list their SDG affiliation when presenting workshops and performances. However, the Guild letterhead, logo and name are to be used only in connection with official Guild business and activities, as endorsed by a Chapter Board, Regional Director or Guild Executive Board. Official Address: Sacred Dance Guild, Post Box 335, Bemis Court, Marlborough, New Hampshire 03455. Headquarters Address: Ann Blessin, 762 Olive Street, Denver, CO 80220. Editor's Address: Toni' Intravaia, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901. (c) Sacred Dance Guild, Inc. All rights reserved. ISSN 1043-5328.

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Deadlines for the Journal: August 15, November 15 and March 15. Deadlines for the Events Calendar: The same as for the Journal. Articles of 500 words or less, dance activity, chapter/region/membership news, letters and black and white photographs should be sent by deadline dates to: Sacred Dance Guild Journal, Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901.

# President's Message

Dear Members,

Festival '96 is over and what a marvelous Festival it was. I am still trying to digest everything that happened there, and I extend congratulations to the committee as well as Festival '96 Director, *Karen Josephson*. My congratulations to the new board who will be carrying the torch for the guild next year. As you know, this is my last official letter to the Journal since the new regime will take office October 1, 1996.

I have grown so much since I began this job three years ago. I had many new things to learn; some I learned better than others. But always my goal was that the SDG would grow and serve others in spirituality and dance. Not unlike the tripudium, sometimes it was three steps forward and one back, but we kept on dancing. This is such a unique organization and I know of none other like it. I have met so many wonderful people who are all committed to sacred dance. They have inspired my work in sacred dance and I will continue working in the guild but in a new and different way.

Because of your support, one of my specific goals for the SDG was accomplished, that of adding to, and building the SDG Memorial Fund. We now will be able to offer scholarships on a yearly basis because the money is in a mutual fund where it will generate income over the next years. The "Ruby Wiles Silent Auction" will be a yearly occurrence at Festivals and this also will provide additional scholarship money. I strongly urge more of you to encourage sacred dance at seminars around the country. Presently PSR and Iliff have Endowment Funds, but we need others. It is important for our future ministers to be educated about the art of sacred dance in worship.

Recently I visited Assisi with my daughter Barbara who resides in Italy. As I entered the church where St. Francis is buried, I sensed a deep spirituality in the place. It was as though he was still there. I hope the spirituality of sacred dance will be like that and that it will be felt throughout the world for centuries to come. The SDG has begun some very fine work and there is still a lot of work to do. Visions 2000 has already formulated proposals and I am glad that this took place during my term of office. The Bible says, "Without vision the people perish." We have vision!!! I hope more youth and children become educated in sacred dance and that our membership doubles over the next five years.

I was excited about participating in the maze dance at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. It stirred up ancient memories of how people used to dance the maze dance in centuries past. There seems to be a revival of this dance form since Denver is currently constructing a maze for the same purpose. People have a deep hunger and a need to use their bodies in expressing their faith beliefs. It is exciting that we, as a sacred dance guild, are a part of this new-old dance revival. I see a strengthening and a growing of sacred dance throughout the country. May God continue to bless this ministry and I hope it will continue to flourish.

I believe in team work and cooperation and I would like to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO MY TEAM; I could not have done my job without you!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Vice-President: Paul Fiorino, 1994, Joann Flanigan, 1995-96; Recording Secretary: Jeannie Carbonera, 1994, Celeste Rossmiller, 1995, Regina Bowman, 1996; Treasurer: Carolyn Lutito; Membership: Carla Kramer; Corresponding Secretary: Annie Zahradnik; Festival Directors: Ted Webster, Kathleen Henry, 1994, Lisa Tuttle, 1995, Karen Josephson, 1996; Journal Editor: Toni' Intravaia; Program Director: Pam Gwozdz, 1994, Lisa Tuttle, 1996; Director of Regions & Chapters; JoAn Huff; Publicity: Paula Nettleton, 1994-95, Anne Marks, 1996; Resource: Kathryn Mihelick - Joyce Smillie; Archivist: Mary Johnson, 1994-95, Priscilla Richardson, 1996; Parliamentarian and By-Laws: Mary Jane Wolbers; Financial Advisor: Sharon Miller; Nominating Committee Chair, Barrie Gibby; Scholarships, Barbara Tener.

Now it is with mixed emotions of both sadness and joy that I leave this part of my journey. It has been an adventure and it has been my pleasure serving you for the past three years. Now I am beginning a new journey, a new adventure. I don't know where the path will lead me, but one thing is for sure: Jesus said, "Take nothing with you for the journey. Everything you need will be provided for you when you get there." May God be with you on your sacred dance journey and may God provide all that you need and then some when you get there.

Ann Marie Blessin,  
President

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Grace Dance Consort of Nutley, NJ performs "Peace is flowing like a river" at the Litany of Remembrance, 50th Anniversary of Hiroshima at the Montclair Unitarian Church, August 5, 1995. Dancers are Alexandra Tscherne and Courteney Lipman.

# Editorial

The Festival 96 at Berkeley was absolutely refreshing and your Editor is back and ready to put out the first issue of her 26th year! There are so many items to report that in all probability I will miss a few.

There were five sacred dancers on scholarship at Festival 96: Christina Wioch, Diana Holbert, Nancy Smith, Dianne Schayot, and Anna Douthwright, and it was truly a fine experience for them and for the Guild.

Each morning there was dance worship service led by a faculty member, and there was a "news hour" to give day by day updates. At one of the worship services (based that morning on the Eight Beatitudes) the participants were asked to support the following endowments: The Margaret Taylor Endowment for Dance in Worship and Education at Pacific School of Religion (checks to be made out to Pacific School of Religion), The Sacred Dance Guild Memorial Endowment (checks to be made out to The Sacred Dance Guild Endowment Fund), The Carla DeSola/Doug Adams Endowment for Dance at the Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education (checks to be made out to The Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education with a note for the DeSola/Adams Dance Endowment), and The Connie Fisher Endowment Fund for Sacred Dance at Iliff School of Theology (checks to be made out to the Connie Fisher Endowment Fund for Sacred Dance). Over a thousand dollars came in almost equally divided for each of the four endowments. If any readers would like to contribute, please do so!

At Festival 96 Annual Meeting the slate of officers was unanimously elected and will take office on October 1: President: Joann Flanigan, Vice-President: Barbara Tener, Recording Secretary: Lavinia Lee Tomlinson, Corresponding Secretary: Annie Zahradnik, Treasurer: Barbara Eppich, OSU, Membership Director: Carla Kramer, Program Director: Lisa Tuttle, Journal Editor: Toni' Intravaia, Director of Regions and Chapters: Denise Dovell, Publicity Director: Anne Marks, Resource Director: Kathryn Mihelick, Archivist: Priscilla Richardson, and International Director: JoAn Huff. Directors at Large: Ann Blessin, Anna Douthright, and Sally Moravitz. Regional Directors: Sue Highfill, Caitlin Williams, Carlyn Green, Kari Ward, Starfire, Connie Ching, Vickie Blake, Mary Ellen Lewis, Mark Maloney, Sally Rothenerger, Betty Wooddy, Elizabeth Kilbourne, Diane Gulian, Pat

Schuckert, Karen Cheney Shores, Nancy Phillips, Elsie SKeefe, Sylvia Bryant, Bobbi Wethington, Pattie Carr, Georgeana Rainwater, Val Hammond, Pamela Shaw, Barrie Gibby, Jerilyn Ommen, Donna Hardy, Joann Robertson, Barbara Paul, Sue Carter, Judith Reichsman Preble, Phyllis Stonebrook, Joyce Barnard, Ruth Richardson.

CONGRATULATIONS!

As you know from reading the front page, our 97 Festival is at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina, and we have the place for our 1998 Festival at the Snowbird Resort in Utah to celebrate our 40th anniversary and the year 2000 will see us in Ottawa, Canada! If any of you have ideas or wish to contribute your talent or assistance, do get in touch with the directors. The 1999 Festival is not yet set.

As a dance notator, I noted that the American Dance Guild Newsletter carried some of Doris Humphrey's "Shakers" in notation and an article on the written dance by Margot Lehman. In my early days as Editor, I carried notation in each issue. Perhaps as we grow, it would be great to keep some of what we do in written form, as well as video. The musician



David McCauley, center, opening dance of worship at Festival '96, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Cal.

has his written form as well as recorded form. Let me hear from you.

I will initiate a new column that I hope will gain momentum from your input - called "Youth Corner". The Winter issue will have as its theme "Sacred Dance - Reflection - Awakening".

Please continue to send your *Journal* news, as well as news for the Calendar of Events, to Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, and your news from regions and chapter to our new Director of Regions and Chapters, Denise Dovell, 947 Mt Rose Street, Reno, NV 89509. The deadlines are August 15, November 15, and March 15.

Welcome to all new officers, Regional Directors and Chapter officers.

Dear Sacred Dancers:

What a grand festival we just celebrated at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley! Many thanks and a lot of love to Karen Josephson, her committee and the faculty for making it such a delightful week.

How wonderful it was to see so many dancing friends again! Some of you I had not seen since Festival '94 in Boston, and some of you while we were at PSR in 1993 and Festival '92 in Alexandria, Virginia. This annual nurturing is a strong community building factor, and one where future board officers and dance leaders emerge. I am so happy that some group somewhere in Sacred Dance Guild land is willing to chair a festival, to form a committee and to see it through each year.

As an example, our Lake Junaluska Festival '97 committee got together for lunch at PSR, and as Sue Jonson put it. "One never knows what can happen when one attends a simple luncheon meeting at Festival". We are indeed grateful to Sue who has agreed to be our overall Coordinator! Sue, I might mention that 11 years ago, I attended a Festival '87 meeting while at Festival '85 at Lancaster, and now...

Several of our board officers have been working on a very simple "interest inventory" form which hopefully you have not only received as you read this, but that you have returned it to our next Nominating Committee Chairperson, Joicele Nordwall. PLEASE respond - you are an important spiritual being, and we need your feedback as we share ideas, plan future festivals and projects, improve communications, and staff the Board and Committees.

Thank you Ann Blessin, Barrie Gibby, Barbara Tener and Mary Jane Wolbers for helping to put this Interest Inventory together. And many more thanks to all of you for assisting me as I make this transition from Vice President to the office of President on October 1st.

Love and Peace,  
Joann Flanigan

# Dancing, A Discipleship of Equals

by Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI

The theological term for the activity of the Trinity is perichoris. The word of Greek origin means to dance around in a circle. The Divine dances through the cosmos and the ages. The triune Holy One delights in dancing. About 1200 women and men from 20 countries gathered for the 20th anniversary celebration of the Roman Catholic Women's Ordination Conference called "Discipleship of Equals: Breaking Bread and Doing Justice," November 10-12, 1995.

Thanksgiving weekend twenty years ago, over a thousand of us had gathered in Detroit asking why Catholic women couldn't be ordained. Speakers clarified that the theological stones that blocked the way seemed to be placed by men. Carla DeSola danced and the power and freedom of the Spirit seemed to move with her, moving over the stones, filling the room, filling our hearts. In the Candlelite room, we heard, "...and those of you who feel called to ordination, stand." As if the dance was leading us to the next step, one stood, and then another and another. Women cannot sit down again, we are in the dance. I was a college teacher in my late twenties then. My strongest memory was the dance. I could still feel the beauty as I coordinated dance for the anniversary gathering.

The second Women's Ordination Conference held in Baltimore began with a processional dance. From the harbor to the Convention Center, we moved holding huge chains. Chains can bind or chains can link and give strength. We moved, we danced down the streets linked and learning to use the growing momentum. When the third conference was held in St. Louis in 1985, I was in the midst of a doctoral dissertation with dramas and dances of biblical women. When the Hebrew people had been freed from the slavery of Egypt, Miriam led them in a ritual of song and dance. The text, one of the oldest fragments of scripture, seems to come from the tradition of women priests who led ritual in Egypt. I led a ritual as Miriam and invited all whom God had freed to join in the dance.

In early Christianity, circle dances with all the community were popular. This prayer imitated the angels dancing

around the throne of God. In the fifth century as hierarchy developed, the dances began to change. Dances break down social barriers. Dances began to be used less. Deacons would only dance with deacons and priests would only dance with priests.

In the opening service of the WOC anniversary gathering, persons dressed in albs, cassocks, bishops' miters, and stoles processed in a dance of pomp and prestige. Needy persons huddled cold, hungry, homeless, and lonely reaching toward the pompous parade. At first the congregation laughed, then they began to grow uncomfortable as the powerful looked over or stepped over those in need. Gradually transformation began—the wearer of a cassock began to use it as a blanket for one who was cold. A miter became a bowl for water to soothe the weary. An alb became a table cloth so the lowly could feast. Stoles began to be ribbons to link friends. Finally, the mighty mitred one, the limping little one, the pompous pontiff, and the pleading pauper were holding hands dancing in a circle, dancing a discipleship of

equals. A few bishops were among the congregation watching this.

Some supportive bishops met with a group from WOC the day after the gathering to discuss it. One of them spoke of the dance—not the words he'd heard, but the dance he'd seen. A few years ago in a retreat at the Nevada Nuclear test site, I had led the Liturgy of the Word with a danced reflection that we might cherish rather than destroy our fragile earth. Beside me stood the leader of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Archbishop Dom Helder Camera of Brazil, frail and in his eighties. He pulled on me wanting us to do some more dance. The Women's Ordination Conference has shifted. We are not the victims begging not to be oppressed to be let in. We are the dancers of a discipleship of equals—healing, helping, nourishing, learning, loving, leading, taming, transforming, and doing justice. Crones teach the steady persevering stomps, mothers teach the joyful skips, and maidens run and leap into the future. The Holy One loves it and others, both sisters and brothers, want to learn how.

## After SDG Festival 96 at PSR

**Sacred Dance for Healing**, August 5 - August 9 with Carla DeSola. Sacred dance was offered as a resource for healing and wholeness as the group explored the Inter-Play of grace and conflict in life. The participants discovered healing properties of movement by way of dance, including movement meditation, technique and improvisation, using impulses from the inner self, as well as images derived from scripture, music and the natural world. Each day was integrated with a closing ritual involving guided imagery and healing touch.

**Bringing Biblical Humor to Life**, August 5 - August 9 with Doug Adams. Participants focused on understanding biblical humor and learned to bring to life humor in worship, preaching, and teaching. Special attention was given to the variety of prophetic humor in the Old Testament, humor revealed by narrative criticism in Jesus' parables, humor revealed by rhetorical criticism in Paul's letters, humor revealed through contrasting Jesus' miracles and Greco-Roman miracle stories. Dramatic arts, storytelling, dance, mime, music and visual arts helped the class to experience and communicate this humor.

**Wisdom of the Body**, August 5 - August 9 with Cynthia Winton-Henry and Phil Porter. How do I practice being a wise body? Can I experience myself as integrated? What are the spiritual teachings of my body? Can I have more joy and ease? Can I have this and community, too? Using the step-by-step methodology of InterPlay and its core principals, participants addressed themes of spiritual life: integrity, authority, limits, sexuality, community, affirmation, the ethic of play and prayerfulness.

# Looking Back on "Dance as a Journey through Life" Festival '96

by Toni' Intravaia

An Interlochen experience in 1943 was my Sacred Dance beginning. At National Music Camp I choreographed a dance to Bach-Gounod's "Ave Maria" for five people. Those viewing thought it very embarrassing to use a sacred piece of music for dance.

From that point Ted Shawn was the next encounter. He first danced a Christian worship service in 1917 in San Francisco. "Papa" Shawn, as we fondly called him, wrote the following: "The duty of the artist is to shed light into the darkness of men's souls. Feel always that a charge is laid upon you - to send your audience away uplifted, joyous, stimulated to create, given courage to face burdens daily. And you cannot express in movement anything greater or finer than you yourself are. First BE and then DO. Say, when you dance, with Zarathustra, 'Now there danceth a god in me.'"

Sacred dance, an art from Biblical times, was growing in the states. Workshops were held primarily in the New England area and because of this in 1956 the Eastern Regional Sacred Dance Association was formed with a Newsletter coming out in 1957. Noting the spread of liturgical dance worship, the group met to widen the Eastern Regional Dance Association to the Sacred Dance Guild in 1958. Among the first officers were Jane Renz, Avis-Ann Parke and Mary Jane Wolbers.

Margaret Taylor, author of *The Art of the Rhythmic Choir*, in 1950, now known as *A Time to Dance*, truly the Mother of Liturgical Dance, dared to put the revival of this art of worship into print. Lovingly this book is referred to as the bible of sacred dance.

At the beginning the workshop was the means of gathering and learning and sharing. This enlarged workshop is now known as the Festival. As editor of the *SDG Journal* since 1972, I've been in the bubbling up process, the growth and the maturity of the Sacred Dance Guild. An end result for Carlyn Reed and me is the two volume *And We Have Danced*.

My added challenge for the year 2000 is setting up a set of *Journal* Commandments. A set of Ten certainly was a great beginning for order during the time of Moses. But now we are in the time of Editor Toni'! Here goes:

- I. Thou shalt join the Sacred Dance Guild so you will get a *Journal*.
- II. Thou shalt make all dance activity reports short.
- III. Thou shalt send in articles without "nudging" from the Editor on dance related themes.

IV. Thou shalt send in clippings not only with dates but also with publication titles.

V. Thou shalt take photos, audios, and videos and report on them.

VI. Thou shalt advertise in the *Journal*.

VII. Thou shalt send in material for the *Calendar* before the happening, event, or workshop.

VIII. Thou shalt buy extra copies for use and sale at your Workshops.

IX. Thou shalt volunteer to report classes and workshops at Festivals.

X. Thou shalt watch for deadlines.

And to close, as Editor of the *Sacred Dance Guild Journal*, I am hoping that for the issue marking the beginning of the next century we can have chunks of golden dance inspirations to thrust us into the great 2000.

## MAJOR CLASSES, FESTIVAL 96

Those attending Festival 96 at Pacific School of Religion were given a sampling of one hour class with each of the main offerings. For the rest of the week, participants chose one of the two hour classes. As reporter I noted that each session focused on dance prayers, technique and warm-up, guided movement improvisations and preparing and sharing solo or small group studies of prayer moments. Carla DeSola offered "Dancing the Prayers of Our Journey", Karen Josephson, "Dancing the Journeys of Our Lives", Martha Ann Kirk, "Dancing the Journeys of Biblical Characters", David McCauley "The Journey Inside-Out", and Mahea Uchiyama "Dancing the Journey of North Africa".

Then, instead of reporting the rest of the classes, I took part in the Carla DeSola Sessions. Each day we had a special assignment: God's delight in us, God's suffering in us, God's courage in us. And, with this we also had the challenge of writing a psalm. The whole idea was formed around a white stone (Revelations). The following psalms were written by students in this class:

A PSALM FOR LIFE by Diana Holbert - Dedicated to Carla DeSola and the Sacred Dance Guild Scholarship Committee

O God, you have let me sink into my suffering. / You have not held me from racing into grief. / The life I have made / of your gift of yellow ribbon, / is to tie up its ends in a series of knots.

Yet with your nimble fingers and cunning ways, / you continue to untie what I knot up. / You grasp my hand with the music of Taize: / Old Mother Mary touches me.

My friends leave the service / to stand giggling in front of the McDonald's / on Grant and California, / And you bounce me on your knee in sheer delight: / A knot untied.

O God, my Creator, / I am in awe of your sly love / which continues to surprise me: /for your endings are as unexpected as your beginnings.

And so, God, / you challenge me not to lie in wait, / but to journey in wait; / for you are the sweet old Mary Mother, / who, rather than cutting through it all, continues to untie the Gordian knots of my life, / one by one.

I surrender to you, God. / Praise and glory be to you. / Amen.

(Diana Holbert was one of five scholarship recipients to the Sacred Dance Guild Festival in San Francisco, July, 1996. She is an ordained Minister serving in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Diana has been leading in worship through dance and conducting workshops across the country since 1972.)

PSALM by Mark Moloney

Climbing into and out of an ancient tombe / atop a mountain in Portugal, /you were the breeze in my hair / and the sun on my face / that told me I was remembered.

Fathoming the depths / where my soul was torn and ensnared / on glistening coral reefs /you were the grace-filled current / that warmed and buoyed me.

Sitting by the bed of a man / who was planning his funeral, / you were the light pouring out of his eye / assuring me that you will be my rock / if only I can accept) you in my heart.

## EVENING PROGRAMS Festival 96

**Singing Over Bones** opening the evening performance by the Third Stage Company. This is an intergenerational dance company and part of the Pamela Trokanski Dance Theatre based in Davis, California. This composition told in movement and music the story of bringing the bones to life.

**Wing It** concluded the evening. This seven year old performance ensemble, directed by Phil Porter and Cynthia Winton-Henry, used dance, story, humor, song and spirit to improvise a full length program. With the addition of four dancers and a musician, this work was an absolute delight to the eye and ear - and all composed as the audience watched!

**Faculty Concert** included "The Angel and Mary" with Martha Ann Kirk (so child-like in its essence), "Purify Me" with Mary

Jones (the wonder of water), "Then, Now, and Always" with Kathryn Miheleck (power in story-movement), "Icicles and Water Drip Down Together Dissolving Old Differences" with Barbara Lyon (dissolving age), "Motherless Child" with Denise Dovell (misery in aloneness), "Raks al Balad el Aman" with Mahea Uchiyama (quiet, striking dignity), "From Blood to Wine" with Anna Douthwright (the sharing of the gift), "Story Song" with Jose Ruben DeLeon (strength of the song), "My Women" with Karen Josephson (use of story dance, body and sign language), "A Letter to the Churches" with Omega West Dance Company (sculptures arising from the pews), and "Scottish Lilt" with Ann Blessin and Diane Guilian, the Bagpiper (a beautiful ending as the group moved out onto the moonlit grass).

### SPECIAL GATHERINGS Festival 96

#### Walking the Labyrinth at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Those attending Festival 96 could walk either the inside or the outside Labyrinth at Grace Cathedral. The Labyrinth is an archetype, a divine imprint, found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world. By walking a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth, laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral around 1220, the walker is rediscovering a long-forgotten mystical tradition that is insisting to be reborn. This Labyrinth has only one path so there are no tricks to it and no dead ends. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where walkers find themselves in their lives; it touches sorrows and releases joys. One walks it with an open mind and an open heart.

#### Taize with Dance at Old Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

This Taize style service with movement meditations to accompany the songs was led by Carla DeSola who noted: "Dancing becomes a gentle yet powerful way of prayer as body and soul merge in meditation. When gestures are repeated over and over, the spirit seems to fill us, moving us into a realm where our hearts and whole being are united in the mystery of worship."

Taize is a small village in France, the home of an ecumenical religious community whose form of prayer and chant has drawn pilgrims of all ages from around the world. The simple, repetitive songs, augmented with movement meditations, are designed for all present to take part with ease. Candlelight, darkness and the beauty of the oldest cathedral in San Francisco helped lead all into reflection and the mystery of God's presence.

Live music of piano, harp and voices was under the direction of Mark J. Sullivan,

director of music at Old St. Mary's. The order: Veni Sancte Spiritus, Adoramus Te, Scripture Reading, Wait for the Lord, Kyrie Eleison, The Lord's Prayer, Ubi Caritas, O

Christe Domine Jesu, Stay with me, Jesus, Remember me, Dona Nobis Pacem, Laudate Dominum, Nada Te Turbe, Closing Prayer, Glory Be to You.



## VISIONS 2000

by Jeannine Bunyan & Denise Dovell

**THE JOURNEY** The Open Space is a large house and lab space with swimming pool and meeting room surrounded by tall trees. To this backwoods retreat came Guild members from the east, the midwest and the west. These members have been with the Guild years and have held various offices on the board. They came to guide the Guild into the next century.

The journey to the Visions 2000 Retreat started with **TASK**. This extensive study was done in the late 1980's. The purpose - to evaluate operating procedures of the Guild. Changes were proposed by Task in 1990 which led to: upgrading the Journal, improving communication, improving visibility and outreach, establishing a Festival policy for accountability, and prorating memberships.

Organizations, as people, must be continually updating and changing if they are to remain effective and enthusiastic. Ann Blessin, president, requested a new evaluation. **A VISION 2000** Think Tank was formed: purpose - to review TASK, identify new issues, and suggest changes. Reports were read at Board-at-Large meeting, 1995. But the proposals needed to be analyzed. Time lines were needed, personnel needs spotted, and costs budgeted.

The organization of **THE VISIONS 2000 RETREAT** began, space was found and notice was placed in the Journal. Twelve members met one evening in June. The intense weekend started with questions like: "Why are you a member of the Guild?" and "What does interfaith mean to you?" Home-work reports were given on topics such as: cost of telephone conferencing, the internet, similar organizations, and general calendar and budget information. There was general discussion and a day spent hammering out detailed proposals.

Vision 2000 participants (l. to r.): Jeannine Bunyan, Ruth Ann Rude, Carla Kramer, Denise Dovell, Kay Trozell, M.J. Wolbers.

Finally a vote was taken. The end result was thirteen proposals.

**PROPOSALS APPROVED** Board-at-Large meeting, Berkeley, July 28th, 1996.

1) A mission statement was adopted, "The Sacred Dance Guild believes that sacred dance is a catalyst for spiritual growth and change through the integration of the mind, body, and spirit."

2) Dates were set for punctual delivery of *Journal*.

3) An advertising manager will be added to the *Journal* staff.

4) Student archivist will be utilized by the Archives Committee to put the archives in order.

5) The SDG will join the World Dance Alliance as a group.

**YET TO BE ACCOMPLISHED** Eight more proposals are still to be addressed: 1) set up Guild Board Meetings on inter-net, 2) & 3) open solicitations for Festival sites, presentations, workshops, and papers, 4) a proposal that Festival be held bi-annually with District Conferences on off years, 5) change of dates for terms of office, 6) job descriptions of executive board, 7) accountability of board, and 8) analysis of cost reduction of *Journal*.

**WRAPPING UP** The goals of the Guild for the year 2000 is to take the step into the computer age, to clean up communication in general, and to become financially fit to proceed to the next level of stability.

**YOU HAVE A VOICE** Proposal copies have been sent to the Board-at-Large which include Chapter Representatives and Regional Directors. Contact your local representative with response or write to SDG President, 1004 Brook Ridge Circle, Huntsville, AL 35801. The next board meeting will be held at Joann Flannigan's home in Alabama on October 12, 1996.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Northern California Chapter

The Chapter held a workshop February 10 at Faith Lutheran Church, Castro Valley. Karen Josephson and Jamie Parnum led "Festival '95 Revisited - a Celebration." Many presentations of sacred dance are church sponsored, rather than Guild organized. The Central Valley is the site of activity in Fresno. Chapter Treasurer Dan Johnson continues to direct much sacred dance at his church in Hilmar. Cynthia Winton-Henry is President and Joann Weeks, the Chapter Representative.

### Southern California Chapter

The chapter has re-energized itself after a quiet year. A new slate of officers was elected in with Dr. Erylne Whiteman as President, Suzanne Horn, VP, Cynthia Cuzman, Sec./Newsletter Editor, Boude Moore, Treas., Christina Wioch, Roving Reporter, and Jeannine Bunyan Chapter Representative. Jeannine hosted a gathering at her home February 24. The focus of the meeting was "Celebrate our History, Our Hope." Elaine Friedrich told of the history of the 17-year old chapter and Anastasia Cuzmin (12 years old) taught a prayer in Motion, "Spirit of the Living God." Seventeen people attended.

Plans have already been made for a July 27 workshop in Santa Monica, "Dance: Caring for our World," considering environmental social and personal issues. Oct. 21 there will be "Circle of Love," in Camarillo with children included in the morning, and December 1st they will resume the annual family part for "Dancing Christmas Carols."

### Constitution Chapter

The chapter held a workshop, "Touching the Sacredness Within" and a time of sharing on April 20, in North Wales, PA. Twenty-four attended the event led by Barbara Gorham-Engard, a leadership grant recipient in 1995. On June 1, the chapter held a "Sacred Dance with Mary Jane Wolbers Day" in Stroudsburg. During the morning Mary Jane led some dances and reported her trip to Festival '95 in Hawaii. Following lunch there was a program honoring her.

1995-96 officers: Pres. Ruth Ann Rude; VP: Dana Schlegel; Cor. Sec.: Ellen Young; Rec. Sec.: Lenise Spracher; Treas.: Diana Nusessle; Chap. Rep.: Kay Troxell; Newsletter Editor: Anita Bondi. For 1996-97 Dana Schlegel becomes Pres, Karen Clemente takes over as VP. Nuessle and Young were re-elected. Troxell, Spracher and Bondi continue in office through 1997.

### New York/Southwest Connecticut Chapter

Saturday June 1 the chapter held a workshop "Prayer Dances of Southeast India" led by Sharanya Naik at the United Church of Spring Valley. Betsy Yavits, the chapter's Newsletter Editor, led an opening prayer and the annual meeting followed.

### Ohio Chapter

The Sacred Dance Guild Vision 2000 Retreat held in Connecticut at the Open Space attended by Carla Kramer, Annie Zahradnik, Marilyn Enos Foley and Sr. Barbara Eppich, OSU, was very productive as eleven proposals were drawn up which related to Public Relations, Administration and Communication in relation to the Sacred Dance Guild mission statement. Several of these proposals were presented to the Executive Board in time for the Board at Large meeting in California, July, 1996.

The National Pastoral Musician's Regional

Conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio July 9-12. SDG is now an affiliate member of NPM through our reciprocal agreement with ILDA (International Liturgical Dance Association, Gloria Weyman, President, SDG member). Carla Kramer coordinated liturgical dance for the prayer services held during the conference. Participating SDG members were Edna Duffy of Duffy Liturgical Dance Company, Kathryn Mihelick of Leaven Dance Company and the St. Noel Dance Prayer Ministry of which Carla Kramer is the Artistic Director.

The Hosanna Dancers under the artistic direction of Pam Bittner Gwozdz, past SDG president and Director at Large has been active in the Cleveland area. The 5th Annual Palm Sunday concert entitled "Freedom is our Song...and God's People Danced for Joy," included youth dance choirs from 3 area schools under the direction of members of the Hosanna Dancers. On May 27th, Pam Bittner Gwozdz's Mother, Helen Bittner died unexpectedly at the age of 71. (Ed. Note: Please remember Pam and her family in your prayers.)

The Leaven dance Company based in Kent State University under the artistic direction of Kathryn Mihelick is involved in many dancing projects as indicated in their own special Newsletter.

The Ohio chapter regrouped this year and is again having regular chapter meetings and has prepared a newsletter. The chapter members are promoting sacred dance in their own areas and dancing in their churches. The chapter officers: President Carla Kramer, Secretary Susan McLaughlin, Treasurer Helen Lesniak, Representative Annie Zahradnik.

### Potomac Chapter

The Potomac Chapter held a workshop "Experiencing Lent and Easter through Movement" March 16 at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Wheaton, MD. Other workshops include: September 30 "Dancing from the Right Side of the Brain" led by Rev. Trudy Lohr at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Va. and on November 11 at the Church of the Savior in Washington led by Cyndy Taylor-Ward, Sally Moravitz and Joceille Nordwall "Sharing Dances to Christmas Carols."

Officers of the Potomac Chapter: President: Cyndy Taylor-Ward, Chapter Representative: Susan S.Y. Johnson, and Treasurer: Scott Ward.

Chapter members in the metropolitan Washington DC area have a performing group to respond to requests for sacred dancers. The group danced at Mt. St. Albans Episcopal on Maundy Thursday and at the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Practices are held on the third Saturday of the month and are co-ordinated by president, Cyndy Taylor-Ward.

Joyce Day and Joceille Nordwall danced Bob VerEecke's "Holy Darkness" at Founday UMC in June. In September the Mt Vernon UMC Dance Choir danced James Weldon Johnson's "Creation" with Rev. Youtha Hondman-Crowell as the preacher. Sue Johnson danced the sermon at Seeker's Church of the Savior on two occasions joined by Sherry Bergen in July.

The Spring Workshop and Chapter meeting was held at Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Wheaton, MD with Cyndy Taylor-Ward as Leader.

### Lakeshore Chapter

Last June 17, 1995, the chapter held its annual Spring Festival concert at Moreau Center for the Arts, St. Mary's College in South Bend, IN.

Twenty-eight dancers and crew worked on the production under the direction of Indi Dieckgrafe and Kevin Dreyer. September 23 at St. Gertrude's Church in Chicago Nancy Marchesi and Chapter President John Jenkins led a Fun Movement Day-Annual Gathering. April 28 members met at Ginny Siano's for a planning meeting. There is no concert this spring, but a mid-October Chapter Dance Fest with workshops on Friday evening Saturday morning and performances on Saturday night is planned for the fall.

Officers for the 1996-97: Sandy Regsdale, president; Chuck Yopst, chapter representative and secretary; and Donna Pries, treasurer.

Toni Higgins-Thrash led the dance events "Karitos" on September 7th.

### Rocky Mountain Chapter

The chapter held a workshop, "Making of Our Moving a Thank Offering" June 16, 1996 in the mountains at Evergreen, Co. Crystal Parks was the leader. Other sponsored activity was low key due to crises, low energy level and lack of time on the part of the officers. Their solution was to nurture each other by arranging groups to attend local sacred dance concerts by area dancers. Attendees enjoyed a meal and sharing before or after concerts in April and May.

Officers: President, Dory Duncan; Secretary, Carole Brashear Rankin; Treasurer, Sally Goerner; Representative, Judy Rutledge; Publicity, Lola West; Newsletter, Carla Ficke; Member-at-Large, Barbara Ann Jonus.

### Directors-at-Large

#### 1994-1997

Barrie Gibby, South Carolina  
Dan Johnson, California  
Judy Rutledge, Colorado

#### 1995-1998

Kay Kopatich, Iowa  
Stella Matsuda, California  
Joceille Nordwall, Virginia

#### 1996-1999

Ann Marie Blessin, Colorado  
Anna Douthwright, London, Ontario  
Sally Moravitz, Virginia

### NOTICE

The Sacred Dance Guild plans to establish a Committee for Collegial Affiliations, whose purpose is to maintain a special stewardship over our collegiate fellowships. To date, the Guild has approved affiliations with the American Dance Guild, the International Liturgical Dancers Association, and the National Dance Association. It would be of great value to us if this Committee is served by members who also hold membership in one or more of the affiliate organizations. These mutual relationships are important to us, and improved communication is very much in order.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of this Committee, and/or serving as a Committee member, please contact Joann Flanigan as soon as possible. This item will be on the agenda for discussion at the Executive Board meeting of October 12, 1996.

## SACRED DANCE ACTIVITIES

### Alabama

Ilene Wilson Smith plans to continue teaching movement and meditation classes at the Episcopal Church in Huntsville.

### Arizona/New Mexico

Caitlin Williams is the new Regional Director since Denise Dovell has moved to Reno. She has an extensive background in performing and teaching and now is doing liturgical dance with her two daughters in Tucson. Denise Dovell's Thursday in the Dark Dance Theater performed at several services during Lent and in spring concerts in the Mesa area. The Apache Wells Dancers presented "The Awakening of the Soul," on Ash Wednesday. The UCC group did an original dance inspired by Betty Eadie's book *Embraced by the Light*, with choreography by Rene Young and music by The Musical Journey, Bryce Newbert and Stan Zenc. The Pacem dancers offered a dance/drama on Stations of the Cross at Orangewood Retirement Center and at Desert Heritage UMC Church during Lent.

### California

Christian Art in the 1990's, 423 East Ojai Avenue #107-167, Ojai, Ca 93023 seeks entries for an international collection on CD-ROM. What is the hardest thing an artist does after creating a new masterpiece? How do you take advantage of the ARTMAX INTERNATIONAL worldwide net of art buyers?

### Columbia-Willamette

The Power and Praise Dance Company, founded by B. J. Bateman and now with SDG Bookkeeper, Sharon Miller providing artistic direction, continues a very active schedule in the Portland area. Between March 17 and June 9 they participated in four worship services at UMC churches in Portland, Tigard, Beaverton and Turner, Oregon. "Bringing in the Light," to music composed and performed by Enya is used as a Call to Worship. Miller's compositions "Blackbird," to music by Lennon/McCartney, "One Village," to African music as well as "Jesu, Joy of our Desiring," "Free at Last," music by Roger Miller, and "Children of Light," music by Enya and used as a benediction, are in the repertory. They are also presenting Bateman's "Lord's Prayer" to the Malotte music, Carrie Jo Vincent's "Mary's Dance," music by Kitaro and "Bring Him Home," choreographed by Valerie Grudier Edwards as a prayer for friends who suffer or have died of AIDS. For the fall Power and Praise is scheduled at the Women's Spiritual Retreat at the Aldersgate Conference in Turner, OR and the Open Door Fellowship meeting at Roseway Community Presbyterian Church in Portland.

Rev. Val Hammond danced in Oregon and Arizona and formed a dance choir at the church where she has worshipped several times. She held workshops at Marylhurst College where the annual Christmas Carol Dancing is held. Val continues to lead sessions of Dances of Joy and Peace.

### Eastern Canada

Eastern Canada has developed a yearly pattern of sacred dance offerings over the past two and a half years: Fall dance retreat at Bells Corner United Church, led by Ruth Richardson and Wendy Morrell, Ottawa area; Epiphany dance retreat at Anglican Church Gatineau, Quebec, hosted by Deborah Bethell; Spring Dance Retreat hosted by Anna Douthwright and the RC Church

in London; and Summer Celebration of Arts and Dance, an ecumenical retreat in the Gatineau Hills in Quebec. Wendy and Ruth have spoken about sacred dance at many events, talk shows, and are featured in the National United Church magazine, Observer, and the Dance Network News in Ottawa. They have distributed over 5000 SDG brochures and people are intrigued and delighted that a Canadian, Anna Douthwright, was featured on the front page.

Ruth Richardson laid labyrinths during spring and summer. In May she spoke on "Death and Spirituality" at the International Bereavement Conference in London. She laid the Chartres Labyrinth with pink tape to symbolize the pink granulation tissue found in a healing wound. Sixty people walked it over the three workshops. She laid other labyrinths in May for "Just Dance", for a Solstice weekend in June and in September for Algonquin College Palliative Care Course Alumni. Wendy Morrell laid one for her sister at an event in California during the summer.

Wendy choreographed dances for the spring presentation "Rescue in the Night" which included a veil dance. In May Anna Douthwright held a weekend retreat "Dancing on Holy Ground" in London.

The SDG fall event was a weekend retreat focusing on Out of Darkness "secret light." Barrie Gibby, South Carolina, shared leadership with Ian Douglas and Steve Reside. It brought together dancers, musicians, theatrical wizardry and the global cause — Amnesty International. Ongoing were Devotion through Motion led by Ruth and Wendy, Drum Circles, Sacred Circle Dancing, Christmas Carol Dancing, and Labyrinths centered on wilderness walks and Advent. At Temple Pastures, an Anglican Retreat Center in the Gatineau Hills a July gathering "Moved the Parables" was held. Monthly meetings on Sunday afternoons from September through December focused on "Celebrate the Harvest," "I am the Vine," "Peace and Justice," and "The Magnificat." Potluck suppers and Celtic evensong were part of the programs led by Lucille Legault, Deborah and Richard Bethell.

### Florida

The March 1st event "Spirit Dancing into Spring" led by Carolyn Green of Sondance was held at First United Methodist Church in Ormond Beach and drew 90 participants. Interest in sacred dance is growing in northern Florida. As a result of the spring workshop five new members have joined the Guild and Carolyn is helping several groups start. She plans to hold workshops at least twice a year, bringing in guest artists/teachers and has several local dancers committed to help in these endeavors.

### Georgia

Kari Ward facilitated a fall meeting where attendees shared stories and explored movement. Moving in the Spirit continues to be the most active sacred dance group in the region. Kari choreographed "A Prayer for Children" for the Apprentice Corporation. It was dedicated to the children in Dunblane, Scotland who were killed by a former Boy Scout leader. The memorial was well received by the community. The Apprentice Corporation departed June 21 for Tour Explosion 96 throughout the southeast.

### Iowa

Mary Ellen Lewis reports that sacred dance presentations went beyond the usual religious

sites this last year to include dancing in prisons.

### Louisiana

Sacred dance is well accepted in the Baton Rouge area. When it is presented, the overwhelming response from audiences is "How prayerful it is." There have been several ecumenical programs of sacred dance this past year, but no event officially sponsored by the local SDG region. The most significant event was "Les Chemins de la Crix" presented on Tuesday of Holy Week at St. Joseph's Cathedral. It was a multi-media event in which the 14 stations of the cross were danced by an interracial group to music by Paul Clandel and Marcel Dupre. The stations were narrated first in French, then in English, and signed in ASL. The dancers were part of a local dance studio with the choreography done by their teacher. A program note said that the presentation was a gift to the community from the American Guild of Organists, with grant assistance from the local arts council and the San Francisco Chapter of AGO, the home organization of the organist, Stephen Hamilton.

Several groups of dancers participated in "Sounds of Community," the Sixth Annual Interfaith Concert at Trinity Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, April 21. Christ Episcopal Church in Covington held a carol dance in January, a February Bodyprayer gathering and a workshop focusing on Reconciliation in March, led by the Alleluia Dancers (Anne Marks, Betty Woody, and Dr. Ann Trousdale). Sisters of the Dance, organized by Anne Marks, danced at an ordination service in Covington in December, and meets monthly to explore seasonal themes and to support each other through the seasons of life.

Anne Marks, Covington, authored an article on sacred dance for Churchwork eastern diocesan Episcopal church newsletter.

### Massachusetts

Rev. David Gregory and Ted Webster were the leaders for a fall workshop, "I'd Rather be Dancing," held on October 21 at Central Congregational Church in Providence, RI.

### Michigan

RD Diane Gulian works regularly with three children's dance choirs at Clawson UM Church. Her group of 5-7 year olds do simple hymns or prayer movements every five to six weeks. This spring they danced with their favorite stuffed animals to the Carpenters' version of "Bless the Beasts and the Children." The intermediate choir consists of four twelve year-olds, two of whom have been in the choirs since they were age seven. This past spring they prepared their own choreography to "Angels Among Us" by Alabama. She is thrilled to see them reach the art of being able to choreograph for themselves.

Linda Cnosen has moved from Lakeshore Chapter to Detroit where she has managed to obtain studio space and is anxious to form a sacred dance group.

### Minnesota

October 8th the region sponsored a workshop, "Embodiment of Prayer" at Newman Center on the University of Minnesota campus. Leader was Cynthia Lehigh-Nehrbass, who recently presented her sacred dance work at the annual Celebration of Faith and Art in Edina. The annual Winter Warmer Potluck was held February 25 at the Catholic Student Center. It was a time of sharing - dances, questions, ideas concerns. At the same location on April 28 there was a workshop, "Our

Bodies, Our Prayers" - a whole body approach to prayer and meditation. Danielle Henjum-Smith of Duluth, a former RD, was leader. Her latest dance work reflects the water, woods and weather of her new home.

"Barefoot in the Chancel", a lecture demonstration, was presented by Gail Adams and Virginia Huffine on June 23 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, MN. Included between the spoken explanation were Miriam's Dance, Hindu Prayer gestures, The Whirling Dervishes, the Shakers, and a Buddhist Prayer. Concluding the service, Virginia and Gail danced an interpretation of "A Gaelic Blessing", which served as the benediction.

#### Montana

Jolie Monasterio has danced several pieces at Christ the King Church (campus ministry) in Missoula. Both she and RD Karen Shores danced on Good Friday. Karen did a small piece with two children at Trinity.

#### Nebraska

Regional Director Nancy Phillips gathers dancers to form an ad hoc group for specific events. This past year they have shared dance in prayer for the Joan Chittister even in Omaha. With the help of three Girl Scouts, Nancy presented a dance to Pfautsch's "Day of Dancing" in Lincoln for the religious awards ceremony. It was well received and the girls are excited to do more dancing. Nancy continues to do mini-workshops and sometimes uses dance as a part of her sermons.

#### New Hampshire

Regional Director Elsie Keefe writes of sacred dancing in her state. Palm Sunday evening at St. James UMC in Merrimack the St. James Choir and St. Matthews Adult Ecumenical Sacred Dance Choir presented a service to start Holy Week. Two Sunday Vesper services in April and May at Havenwood-Heritage Heights included dance: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee," "Amazing Grace," and "The Lord's Prayer." At the Bradford Presbyterian Mother-Daughter Program May 1st Sandy Fisher and her Dance Choir from Contoocook presented a program of eight dances.

At the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary in Manchester on May 2nd there was a 200 year celebration which included a communion meditation dance by 14 dancers from the St. Matthew Ecumenical Sacred Dance Choir to the accompaniment of "Servant Song" sung by the Sisters of Rivier College.

There was Sacred Dance Celebration in Worship on June 2, at the First UMC in Manchester. Sixteen dance choirs presented seventeen dances and joined with the congregation in opening and closing numbers. Elsie Keefe planned the event which included dancers from age three to 84.

#### New Jersey

Avodah Dance Ensemble presented a three concert series at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in NYC, Interfaith Celebration in Dance, Holocaust Memorial Service and Dance and Liturgy. They toured Toronto, Philadelphia and Gladwyne, PA; Baltimore, Camden and Scotch Plains, NJ; Pittsburgh, Olympia Fields, IL and many communities in the metropolitan NYC area. Some productions have included children.

A grant allowed them to offer a Cultural Arts Program for Children Living in Temporary Housing

in NYC. Twice a week for five weeks 30 children were bused from their housing to HUC-JIR for a snack, 45 minutes of dance and 45 minutes of music education, journal writing, dinner and other short activities related to "Let My People Go," Avodah's Black-Jewish history project around which the lessons were built. At the conclusion of the program, the children performed for invited guests, celebrated at a dinner and took home "Let My People Go" T-shirts, a rain stick and donated books about music and Harriet Tubman.

New Jersey has two other very active sacred dance companies besides Avodah. Grace Dance Consort participated in an Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Hiroshima Day August 5th at Monclair Unitarian Church. The group danced "Peace is Flowing Like a River" which was choreographed by Judith Burwell, director. October 12 they danced "El Regresso del Rio - The Return of the River" to poems by Roberto Soso which were read in both Spanish and English. November 19 the group shared a concert with The Bells of St. Paul's at St. Paul's Congregational Church, Nutley. Sunday April 28 the Consort participated in a farewell concert for Rev. Wade A. Renn at Grace Episcopal Church in Nutley. The group danced pioneers of North American Art Dance, Psalm 100, Return of the River, and Fish Jambalaya, the latter choreographed by Burwell. New Jersey's Regional Director Colley Ballou both danced and did commentary for the pieces. May 13 the Consort presented seven dances for the local branch of the American Guild of Organists.

Working out of Rutherford, Linda Telesco founded Spirit Dance, an interfaith free lance dance ministry which rehearses in the Methodist Church there. The company has a repertoire which spans the Christian church year from Advent through Lent, ordinary time and Thanksgiving. Before starting Spirit Dancers, Linda danced with the Omega Liturgical Dancers at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC. Spirit Dance observed National Dance Week on April 28 at the First United Methodist Church, Montclair. The group also had a workshop "Moving in the Spirit", May 5. They danced for Mother's Day May 14 and on May 26 performed "The Day the Spirit Came" and "If Ye Love Me" at Pentecost Masses, St. Paul's R.C. Church, Ramsey. On June 2 Spirit Dance presented "Genesis" (Williamson) at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Verona; on July 14 offered Shaker dances at Packanack Community Church's summer arts; and on August 7 Linda danced "Amazing Grace" in Mass at the Sea of Galilee during the Holy Land pilgrimage with the College of St. Elizabeth.

#### Nevada

Former Regional Director Deborah Smith did a lecture-workshop for the Newman Center group in Reno this past winter.

#### North Carolina

Bobbi Wethington, the incoming RD, gave two successful workshops during the year, one in Durham in September and one in Sunset Beach in February. Both aimed to introduce people to sacred dance. Her Duke Memorial Sacred Dancers in Durham had a busy year, dancing at community functions, lay rallies, statewide assembly of Church Women United, Holy Week, a retirement community and at the annual UMC conference in Fayetteville. A special appearance was the participation of the youth dancers in the wed-

ding of one of the senior dancers.

Janet Fields of Raleigh Mennonite Church has a dance/movement group of 20. She is following in the footsteps of her sister, who dances at a Chicago Mennonite church.

Nancy Smith reports that a Christmas Eve dance evolved into two weekly dance classes for grade school children, and since then they have participated in Easter, Christmas and both regular and communion Sunday services. The youth have brought friends and neighbors to class, making this a real outreach activity. Nancy directed a week-long "Devotion in Motion" class for Raleigh District summer music and drama camp.

Lisa Sarasohn, who gave a workshop on Cape Cod last fall, led one for the region in June at Glade Mt. Retreat, focusing on "Honor Your Belly: Awakening Your Sacred Center, Nourishing Your Soul and Living from the Source." Annette Dukes, a Catholic lay leader, heads spiritual retreats for adults seeking spiritual direction.

Jane Welford, full time dance professor at Elon College, teaches a course, "Dance in Worship," alternate terms. Her text is *Dance as Religious Studies* by Doug Adams and Diane Apostolos-Cappadona. She also has a group which gives workshops and dances in worship at area churches. The group made over 24 appearances this past year. Gretchen Carroll celebrated her 90th birthday April 30 and she continues to teach yoga at her retirement home and leads occasional sacred dance mixers at her church.

Diane Tucker has been busy with work in dance therapy, children's camp, clowning, and Tai Chi Ch'uan. She wrote "Joey's Song" for clowning and also used Psalm 139 and is busy on drawings for "Petambi's Story" for children.

#### North Texas

Regional Director JoAnn Robertson reports that there has been a sacred dance concert held for 15 years at her home church, First United Methodist, in Richardson. There are many groups participating in sacred dance in the Dallas area and she hopes to have more become Guild members.

#### Oklahoma

Regional Director Georgeana Rainwater directs Faith in Motion, a sacred dance group at Broken Arrow First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1994. Thirteen dancers, including children and adults, perform at their own church and at other churches upon invitation. Some members attend practice but do not wish to perform, which is acceptable to the director. The group has danced throughout the church year — Pentecost, Easter and Christmas, during the service — introit and communion and at the dedication of their new sanctuary in July, 1995. Georgeana also presented a workshop at the local retreat center.

#### South Carolina

A cooperative venture with the NC regional director resulted in a joint newsletter going to SDG members in both states and covering activity in both the Carolinas. The newsletter entitled *Improvising Life* told of the July 21 Workshop "Movements and Prayer" at St. Joan of Arc Church with Karen Day in Asheville.

#### Utah

The members do many parish sponsored activities. They were able to meet each other when they attended a Carla DeSola workshop on "Spirituality and Movement" sponsored by a local

college. The region increased membership from 4 to 9.

#### Vermont

"A Day of Sacred Dance: Celebrating Healing and Creativity" at Weston Priory, Weston on June 8 was led by Judith Reichsman Preble. Paneurhythmy (Bulgarian form of sacred dance that moves in a circle) with Rupa Cousins was taught and danced. Ted Webster taught a folk dance to Adoramos Te Domine. The Monks shared daily Eucharist with the Workshop group. Rupa Cousins and Lerna led the group in greeting the God within and Islamic Whirling. Judith shared (Cynthia-Phil's) Interplay/Improv. Drumming was included and the Monks invited the group to participate in mid-afternoon prayer. CB Goldstein taught Israeli Folk dances. This was followed by Rosetta Newton sharing "O Lord Hear Our Prayer" in moving prayer. Sharon Claveaux, from Boston, taught a Peace Prayer. Miriam Wolf led the group in her spiritual, healing and dance journeys. Lou Wilson included movement meditation. All joined in the end with Chris Wight and the Midwife's Dance. Many of the monks joined in the dance sections.

With the help of the 1996 Fannie Weiss Dance Scholarship to Manchester Dance, the American Dance Guild sponsored a three-week dance workshop in the Vermont Mountains June 30 to July 21.

#### Virginia

The Christian Performing Artists' Fellowship presented "Brahms Requiem" on Saturday May 18 at Constitution Hall in Fairfax, Virginia.

#### Western Pennsylvania

Western Pennsylvania is a small but active region with many churches sponsoring and giving financial support to sacred dance groups. Free-lance sacred dance groups exist and sacred dances are included in concerts offered by agencies. Sacred dance was included at the World AIDS Day Memorial Service and a sacred dance choir has been established at Duquesne University.

#### Wisconsin

"The Circle of the Heart" led by Reverend Tasnim Hermila Fernandez, May 10-12 in Madison Wisconsin was presented by the Dances of Universal Peace and shared reflections and experiences of the Sufi Way, through stillness, thought, and feeling of the dance.

## MEMOS FROM THE MINUTES

#### Executive Board Meeting Highlights;

Meeting of the Sacred Dance Guild Board, May 5, 1996, at the home of Ann Blessin, Denver, Colorado

Those attending: Ann Blessin, Joann Flanigan, Carolyn Lutito, Regina Bowman, Satone Mallory (proxy for Carla Kramer).

#### New Business:

Appointments: It was moved (C. Lutito) and seconded (S. Mallory) and passed to accept Judy Rutledge and Dan Johnson as Directors-at-Large to replace Stephanie LeBlanc Giesell and Barbara Tener.

Priscilla Richardson's address will be the permanent address for the Sacred Dance Guild for the next two years: Box 335, Bemis Court, Marlborough, NH 03455. Permanent Housing for the Archives: Priscilla Richardson is willing to work on the Archives. They are housed at present, at the Peterborough Historical Society Building. The director will allow the papers to be housed at the Society until Priscilla is finished organizing the papers.

Ann Blessin will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to look into the permanent housing of the Archives.

Joann Flanigan moved and Satone seconded and the motion passed that Mary Jane Wolbers would be given Honorary Membership in the Sacred Dance Guild. This is in conjunction with Mary Jane Wolber's Day which will be celebrated in June by the Constitution Chapter.

It was moved by Joann Flanigan and seconded by Satone Mallory and passed that Honorary Membership be bestowed posthumously on Connie Fisher.

It was moved by Satone Mallory, seconded by Joann Flanigan and passed to approve the other charters that were revised at the annual meeting.

Joann Flanigan moved to discuss the proposal to establish a committee for affiliate relationships. After some discussion (it was established) by consensus, and a suggestion was made to discuss further with Mary Jane Wolbers, Parliamentarian, for clarification.

A letter from Pam Ross, Mary Johnson's daughter, recommended that the collection of the Archives be maintained as an open collection until other arrangements can be made. She would like Mary Johnson to be recognized for her work and recommends housing the material in the New York Dance Library.

**Further details and/or copies of reports filed at Board meetings are available to members by request to the President.**

#### Reciprocal Affiliations

The Sacred Dance Guild has collegial status with the following organizations. This is a reciprocal agreement whereby members of the Guild may attend activities of these organizations at the same fee their own members pay (proof of SDG membership is required). Members of these organizations may attend Guild activities in the same way.

American Dance Guild, 31 W. 21st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018 (212) 627-3790.

International Liturgical Dance Association (ILDA) of NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians), 3215 Bellacre Court, Cincinnati, OH 4528-5005 (513) 451-6746.

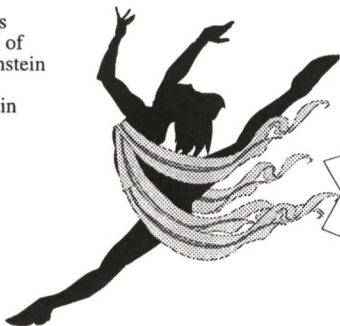
National Dance Association, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091 (703) 476-3436.

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### LET'S COMMUNICATE...

Is there someone out there in Sacred Dance Guild Land who would be willing to collect, compile and prepare for the *JOURNAL* a listing of communication addresses for our members? Please contact Joann Flanigan or *JOURNAL* Editor Toni Intravaia if you would like to do this. You may start with my addresses.

Flanigan, Joann  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Fax: 205-880-8628  
America on Line: CTF0706  
e-mail: ctf0706@aol.com  
Telephone: 205-881-8171

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## CALENDAR

**September 27-28, 1996** - Sacred Arts Festival, Intercultural program promoting visual and performing arts in a sacred context (Sacred Dance with Maggie Kast). Contact: Benedictine Sisters of Chicago 312-764-2413, Ext. 233.

**September-December** - 10-Week Performance Workshop, Outabounds Performance Company, Hedwig School of Dance, Chicago Cultural Center. Contact: Outabounds Performance Company, 3319 West Berwyn, Chicago, IL 60625 or phone 312-463-3956.

**October 11, 1996** - Cynthia Winton-Henry and Phil Porter leaders for a Day Workshop, Washington, DC area. Contact: Sue Johnson 703-641-5963.

**October 10-13, 1996** - Focus on Dance Education Conference 1996 "Weaving Dance into Learning: Realities, Myths and Dragons", Minnesota Center for Arts Education, Golden Valley, MN 55422. Contact: Byron Richard 612-591-4775 or Pam Paulson 612-591-4708.

**October 12, 1996** - Dance Workshop for Sacred Dance Guild "Dance: Circle of Love", Padre Serra Parish, 5206 Upland Rd, Camarillo, CA, led by Catherine Foley and Stella Matsuda. Contact: Cathy Saine, 805-484-0606.

**November 8-10, 1996** - Ever Ancient, Ever New: The Religious Imagination with Madison Smartt Bell & Dana Gioia, New Harmony, Indiana. Contact: Image, P.O. Box 674, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

**November 15-17, 1996** - La Casa Praise God in Dance Workshop, "Rejoice in the Lord". Contact: Stella Matsuda 805-497-1429 or JoAnn Oakley 805-482-5803.

**December 1, 1996** - Sacred Dance Guild, Southern California Chapter Workshop "Dancing Christmas Carols", Northridge, Ca. Contact: Christina Wioch 213-653-5848.

**January 5, 1997** - "Amahl and the Night Visitors" with Spirit Dance, Our Lady of the Lake Church, Verona, NJ. Contact: Linda Telesco, (201) 997-6767.

**February, 21-23, 1997** - National Dance Association Conference: Dance Science and Somatics IV, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact: AAHPERD Convention Department. Tel: 703-476-3466. E-mail: conv@aaahperd.org.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

**Fall Board Meeting:** Saturday October 12, 1996, 10:30 a.m. Joann Flanigan's home, Huntsville, Alabama.

**Winter Board Meeting:** Saturday, February 8, 1997, 10:30 a.m. Barbara Tener's home, Atherton, California.

**Spring Board Meeting:** Saturday, May 3, 1997, 10:30 a.m. Joann Flanigan's home, Huntsville, Alabama.

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